

MEMORANDUM FOR:

ICS

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Understand from John that you are interested in finding out a little bit about the Jamestown Foundation. The attached might be a little help. [redacted] is still going to try to get me some additional information, and I will pass that on when I get it.

25X1

Date 29 February 1984

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A PROGRAM FOR DEFECTORS FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

The Problem. One of the most dramatic moments in the moral-political struggle between freedom and totalitarianism is the act of defection to the West. This often takes place when an individual of uncommon courage "reinvents the wheel" of the morality and philosophy of Western Civilization in his own mind, without the aid of books, teachers, church, or other positive influences. Having decided to come to the West the defector must leave his homeland, friends and even family members. He then arrives in a free country, whose language he cannot speak and whose system he does not fully understand. He expects that our authorities will make many of his decisions for him — as Big Brother did before — and that he will be placed in a job that fully utilizes his skills.

But he faces a situation more difficult than he imagined. There is no one waiting here to teach him English, introduce him to society, or answer his phone calls at 4:00 a.m. when he hits the depths of depression. (This is not unusual, since he has entered a lonely existence without friends, family or other systems of support.) He finds that he cannot be so easily placed in a job that utilizes his skills. He must compete and hustle for that job, if it even exists.

U. S. intelligence services do have programs to help defectors start new lives. There are limits, however, as to how much they can do. Since their principal mission is intelligence gathering, their primary concern is with a defector's past and not so much with his future or his potential as an actor in the Western political arena.

As a result, many defectors do not play the kind of role that they could in educating the public about the realities of communism, the Soviet system and its global strategy. And, insofar as a defector's life in the West is known to be fraught with difficulties, future defectors are discouraged from coming over. The net result is fewer intelligence sources and fewer people to give first-hand testimony about life under communism and the nature of the threat we face.

The Solution. To fill the various needs that arise in this situation, the Jamestown Foundation has been recently created in Washington, D. C. Designed to complement the work of U. S. government agencies, the Foundation works on those tasks that would only be appropriate for the private sector to undertake. In addition to conducting research on the problem of defection, it renders assistance principally to those defectors who choose to live openly under their own names and who have the potential of adding to the Free World's understanding of the Soviet block and communism.

Assistance to such defectors may take the form of English language training, editorial and research assistance in their writings, limited financial aid, general assistance in adjusting to the novelties and difficulties of life in the West, training in speech-making or oral media presentations, introduction to speaker's bureau services, etc. The foundation is designed to contribute in as many related ways as possible to public education about the Soviet system, its global strategy, and communism in general. William W. Geimer, President of the Foundation, has for six years been attorney for Arkady N. Shevchenko, the highest-ranking defector ever to settle in the West.

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